

WYOMING COUNCIL FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES
Minutes of April 21, 2007 - Casper, WY

Members Attending:

Michelle Aldrich	Kim Capron	Teresa deGroh
Pamela Downing	Suzey Delger	Sherrill Helzer
Jenny Ingram	Maureen Neavill	Jan Torres

Members Absent:

Cynthia Chavez-Kelly	Merna Rierson	Julie Simon
Scarlet Skorcz		

Staff Attending:

Diane Moser, WBC Liaison

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 am by Teresa deGroh.

Old Business

A. Media Plan: Teresa pointed out that it was almost complete except that two committees needed to submit the key messages and we needed an overall message. Michelle said she thought we had generated ideas in Cheyenne and were supposed to think about them and come back with ideas. Suzey moved that we adopt "Women Focus-- Wyoming Benefits" as the overall message; Jenny seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kim asked for clarification of the Legal Rights & Responsibilities title as she believed the purpose of this committee was one of advocacy, rather than rights and responsibilities. Teresa explained that we had adopted the committee names based on statutory language. Kim said her committee would meet before lunch and she would have a recommendation by afternoon.

Teresa was concerned there were no press releases listed after 2004 and Diane explained those listed were offered as examples when the media plan was created.

The crisis communication plan was the next topic and after discussion, the members decided that's the executive committee (chair, vice-chair, secretary, past chair), Diane Moser (WSB Liaison and Rachelle INSERT LAST NAME) would comprise the crisis team.

B. Calendar of Events/Conventions/Conferences: Suzey said she and Scarlet had proposed a calendar in Cheyenne which Scarlet was to update. Teresa would like to have an annual calendar so WCWI can plan for a presence at those events of importance to women. Discussion followed and Michelle suggested we adopt criteria for how we decide which events to include. The concern is that we don't find out early enough to set up booths or display our information. There are a few events such as the Women's Expo, the Wyoming Library Association, and the Wyoming Business Alliance that we are aware we want to include. We have participated in the Wellness in Wyoming conference in the past. Michelle

pointed out they are doing a 3-day conference in April which focuses on teens and obesity and eating disorders. Wellness in Wyoming lists WCWI as a participating partner. Teresa pointed out wellness wasn't an item of concern on our issues survey and the previous partnership did not survive our priority list of goals last year.

Teresa asked for a volunteer to monitor state-wide conferences that we want to include and Pam volunteered. Michelle wondered if each committee should handle it. Teresa felt that unless someone is responsible, it just doesn't happen. Suzey suggested we review upcoming meetings as a regular part of our agenda. As such, we could discuss various calendar items and decide whether or not to send our display and/or a WCWI member. .

C. Job Fair: Michelle pointed out the WWCC committee is meeting regularly and the college has agreed to fund much of the expense for the event. Since WCWI has not committed any money at this point, keeping a presence is a little problematic. The committee has organized speakers and workshops and wants to focus on hands-on demonstrations. Suzey moved to pay for travel expenses so that we could ask Kim de Groh to come to the Nontraditional Job Fair as a presenter and speaker. Teresa doesn't know if she can do a hands-on workshop and suggested we contact her. Michelle seconded the motion, which passed with one dissenting vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Women of Distinction: Jenny asked that each member reveal their first three choices for the nomination. If necessary, there would be general discussion about individual qualifications. Willadean Chamberlain was selected as the 2007 recipient. Jenny will call all the nominees to see what dates work for them. We decided in January to do the Woman of Distinction award in July and we have already scheduled a regular meeting for July 7th. Since the winner lives in Cheyenne, Frontier Days may complicate our choices of dates. Jan asked that we consider having the full page ad again, and perhaps reimbursing mileage for all the nominees.

B. By Law Amendment: The change in WCWI By-Laws, discussed in January, was presented. Kim moved to adopt the changes, seconded by Michelle and the motion was unanimously passed.

C. Women's Health Needs Assessment: Previously, a WCWI member who worked at the Wyoming Health Department -- Safa Suleiman -- had asked that we cooperatively work on a Women & Children's health issues survey. Diane was contacted by the Department of Health who indicated they were ready to finish the grant. Federal funds were provided and WWCI was to act as the pass through agent for the funds. The survey was completed some time ago and the federal government has since approved an extension to the project. Because of staffing problems, the Department of Health did not complete the analysis of collected data. There was some discussion about the data no longer being current but it does provide a benchmark that may be of value. WCWI did not

include women's health as part of our issues survey because the Department of Health was conducting their own survey. Teresa felt we need to make clear that unless they have the product to us in time for WCWI to evaluate it, we will not be the agent. This is the first time we've seen the contract and although we are shown as the lead convener, we did not sign it. Debra Hamilton is the person from the Department of Health who contacted Diane. Diane reported that the project completion deadline is 12/31/07 and we have until 9/30/08 to request the \$3,500. WCWI has to invoice the government and send a copy of the report. Suzey suggested we have a draft well before our Fall meeting so that we can review it. Diane agreed to pass along our concerns.

D. Biennial Budget: This request has to be submitted in August, 2007 and members discussed various items they would like to add. Normally, the standard budget goes forward, without discussion. Items on the Exception Budget ask for additional money and require a narrative explanation if the request is not for one-time funds or equipment. If the exception budget is approved, the funds are generally added to the next biennium as part of the standard request.

Since the Nontraditional Job Fair has been successful, Michelle asked that we request \$20,000 to fund it in 2009 and 2010. Jan asked that we include \$5,000 for the Women of Distinction publicity. Teresa asked that we ask for enough funds to update the issue survey, estimated at \$25,000.

Teresa pointed out that the WCWI Resources Directory is being printed off our website more often than any other publication. Since we determined earlier that we would no longer update the directory and use the Connect.WY option, we might want to improve the hyperlink. It was decided to remove the WCWI resources directory URL as a link. Kim suggested we could perhaps add more information about how to access the Connect.WY information.

Even though the issues survey is a one-time cost, we have a need to reprint various publications and do updates on other issues such as the wage disparity study). For that reason, we decided to categorize the request as additional surveys and printing that need to be done and request an additional \$50,000. Diane will prepare a draft of the required narrative and Michelle will be responsible for the language related to the Nontraditional Job Fair; Jenny, the Woman of Distinction and Teresa, the issues/reprinting. Michelle moved to approve the additional \$50,000 request which was seconded by Jenny and passed unanimously.

E. Booth Display Items: Teresa pointed out that we need a table skirt and Kim requested some stands for material to be displayed. Since both of these are minimal cost, we will purchase same. The members discussed whether there is a need for a video projector so that we can run programs. Michelle suggested a television and DVD player that can be looped to play over and over as a cheaper alternative. Diane pointed out that WCWI has a dated laptop computer, printer and camera in the WBC office and members recommended all three be put into surplus.

F. Equal Pay Day: Pam has a news release ready for publication which she will send out on Monday. Jan moved the media plan reflect the addition of a proclamation for Equal Pay Day next year. Michelle seconded. The vote was unanimous.

G. Women of the Mountains International Conference: Teresa had sent a summary of this conference earlier. She appeared on a panel with women from other countries. A woman from Ghana talked about teaching women how to grow enough food to feed their families and how to educate women that they had a basic right to safety. An woman from Kyrgyzstan described how their new government requires that 30% of the government now has include females and the difficulty of finding them. Teresa showed the council members her presentation, about the rural nature of Wyoming, which has about equal numbers of men and women. While the economy is great, there are stark differences in wages paid to men and women. She talked about the WCWI issues survey where the number one concern was the lack of health care (38%) and that 22% don't have health insurance. The second most reported issue was communicating with teens and how those problems parallel adult issues of driving while under the influence of alcohol, domestic violence, suicide and sexual abuse. In Wyoming, women average 60.7% of men's wages and child care is a major concern. The WCWI survey showed 58% of women who need childcare leave their children with family and friends and don't use professional services. Only 5.7% of full time employers offer childcare which means Wyoming women need better jobs to afford professional care. Teresa pointed to two things that WCWI had implemented as a result - the nontraditional job fair training to encourage young women to select careers that pay a living wage and the Summit Award which recognizes family friendly workplaces. The Conference resulted in a declaration which Teresa will email to members. Teresa has copies of the presentation available on CDs and members are welcome to use it to talk to various service groups in their home communities. Members need to talk about the issues and to allow the public to understand the problems working women face. Pam said she would adapt the presentation and present it to encourage interest in the Summit Award. In the discussion, it was pointed out that Diane has a library of jpeg files with the WCWI logo which she will send to each member.

H. Set WCWI meeting Dates: There was a great deal of discussion about quarterly meeting dates and whether or not they could be attached to various WCWI events (Women of Distinction, Job Fair, Legislature, etc). Since the July 7th meeting has already been scheduled and neither Diane nor Jenny would be available to get the Women of Distinction luncheon ready in time, the members decided to schedule that program in September. The date will depend on the nominee's schedule and will be announced later.

Michelle and Diane are meeting with Dona Platon in May to go over the changes and the legal handbook still needs to go to the Attorney General's office for review. Hopefully, we can begin printing in August.

The following dates and meeting locations were decided

July 7th - Lander, WY (Diane asked all information for the board packets be in to her by June 11th.) The meeting will start at 10 am.

October 13th - Rock Springs. The meeting will start at 8 am at WWCC and Jan will try to arrange for motel rooms. (Members should email Jan by Monday, April 23 with how many nights the number of nights they need)

February 22nd and 23rd - Cheyenne. The legislative visit will be on Friday; meeting starting at 8 am on Saturday

April 19th --Casper --10 am start time

I: NACW Convention. Although we had planned to send two people to the convention, there doesn't appear to be much content to the NACW planned agenda. Michelle recommended we eliminate the convention and use that money for keynote speakers at the Women of Distinction Luncheon and the Nontraditional Job Fair. Kim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

J. RECOGNITION OF ELECTED WOMEN. Michelle had provided a Michigan newsletter which highlighted women elected to state office. Kim offered to get a list of Wyoming women elected to state office ready for the newsletter or for a separate mailing. Spring is the next newsletter and the deadline is Monday. The members discussed when would be the most appropriate time and Jenny ended the discussion by saying she would use the legislative handbook and get one ready for this edition.

The Wyoming Legislative Caucus had provided scholarships for women interested in attending a "Run Girl Run" training in Denver but the deadline had passed. Members discussed including the information in future years and Kim recommended that perhaps WCWI could assist the Caucus by also offering scholarships. The workshops focus on training women to run for public office. This year, the training is on May 20th in Denver and it is the second or third year they've done it. Alternatively, maybe we could partner with a college in Wyoming to offer the same training in-state.

III. Consent Agenda:

Teresa asked the minutes be pulled and Jenny moved to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda. Michelle seconded and the motion passed. After some discussion, it appeared there was some confusion about whether or not Teresa's emailed corrections had been made to the latest version of the minutes. Michelle made a motion to approve the minutes as passed on to Jan which Kim seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Matters from Council Members and Public: Pam asked for volunteers who would be interested in distributing posters in their communities for the Race for the Cure. Jan and Sherrill volunteered to do so.

V. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

ATTACHMENTS:
Committee reports

Financial Report
By-Law Amendment Change

Approved on July 7th, 2007